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Soon after your baby is born, he or she will be tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

WHY IS THE TEST IMPORTANT?

New York State requires that all newborn babies be tested for HIV and many other disorders through the Newborn Screening Program.

There is medicine your doctor can give your baby right after birth to prevent her/him from getting HIV.

HOW COULD MY BABY HAVE HIV?

There's only one way, and that is if you have HIV. HIV can be passed to your baby during pregnancy or delivery or through breastfeeding. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV.

WHEN WILL I GET MY BABY'S TEST RESULTS?

If you were tested for HIV during your pregnancy and **do not** have HIV...

you will get your baby's HIV test result along with all of the other newborn screening test results during your baby's first doctor visit. Make sure you ask for all your baby's test results.

If you were tested for HIV during labor **OR** your baby was tested at birth...

you will get a preliminary (not final) test result within 12 hours, hopefully while you are still in the hospital. This test result will help you make choices about breast-feeding, treatment for your baby, and treatment for your self. This preliminary test result must be confirmed.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF MY BABY'S TEST SHOWS HIV?

It means you have HIV and your baby has been exposed to HIV. But, this does not always mean that your baby has HIV. To be sure, your baby's blood has to be tested using a test called PCR. By using the PCR test, the baby's doctor will usually know if your baby has HIV by the time he or she is four months old. That's why it is so important that you talk to your baby's doctor about PCR testing and bring your baby in when your doctor says it is time for PCR testing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I HAVE HIV?

New treatments are available for people with HIV. You can begin treatment right away. You can stay healthy longer. And you can be there for your baby. Talk with your doctor about getting treatment.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY BABY HAS HIV?

With the help of your doctor, you can decide on the best treatment for your baby. You and your doctor can talk about who should know your baby has HIV. And you will learn how to care for your baby, and what to do if your baby gets sick.